

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00
ACDA-07 SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 /057 R

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2 - PM - JKIMBALL
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-----035464 020432Z /14-L
P R 020014Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO
SECDEF
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154320

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE REACTIVATION OF RAF GREENHAM COMMON

REF: LONDON 10516

1. IN YOUR RESPONSE TO MOD MULLEY ON THE QUESTION OF USAF INTEREST IN GREENHAM COMMON, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING: THE US AIR FORCE, IN SUPPORT OF ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO NATO AND IN SUPPORT OF THE EMPHASIS ON NATO OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND BY SECRETARY BROWN AT RECENT NATO MEETINGS, IS REVIEWING ITS FORCE POSTURE IN EUROPE. IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE IN THIS CONTEXT TO CONSIDER IMPROVING OUR FORCES AND BASING STRUCTURE IN
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THE UK. GREENHAM COMMON IS ONE OF SEVERAL BASING OPTIONS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE AIR FORCE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING GREENHAM COMMON INFORMALLY WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE RAF AND FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME THE US AIR FORCE IS STILL EVALUATING ITS REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. WHEN THESE ARE FINALIZED AND APPROVED,FORMAL

REQUEST CONCERNING THE PREFERRED BASE SITES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. FYI: THE AIR FORCE IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING OPTIONS FOR BEDDOWN OF ADDITIONAL KC-L35 AIRCRAFT IN EUROPE. TWO OF THESE WOULD INVOLVE GREENHAM COMMON. ONE OPTION WOULD BE TO ACTIVATE RAF GREENHAM COMMON AS A KC-L35 BASE. DUE TO NOISE LEVELS, AND OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS, IT WOULD LIKELY BE THE MOST POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. A SECOND OPTION WOULD BE TO ACTIVATE RAF GREENHAM COMMON FOR C-130 OPERATIONS WITH ADDITIONAL KC-135 AIRCRAFT TO RAF MILDENHALL. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS ISSUE AND THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A PREMATURE DECISION, THE AIR FORCE WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE A FINAL DECISION AT THIS TIME. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, MILITARY BASES, AIR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE154320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTIMBERLAKE
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770236-0748
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770795/aaaadeqy.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52daf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 10516
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1976489
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE REACTIVATION OF RAF GREENHAM COMMON
TAGS: MARR, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52daf071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009